

advance in materials for paper, as well as a heavy war tax on the manufacture itself, has largely enhanced the value of all descriptions in the United States, independently of the apparent increase in price due to the depreciation of the currency. The consequence is that, as compared with former rates, American stationery is fully 30 per cent. dearer. We have imported much less than the usual amount, substituting English goods, which are of a much better class. It so happens that the prices of the latter are favouring the buyer, as the abolition of the duty on paper has at length begun to cheapen it. It is only recently that there has been any decline in the article, notwithstanding a universal expectation that when the tax was removed the price would fall. Speculation and a largely enhanced demand for cheap periodicals, only a few of which comparatively have lived beyond the year, kept the rates up to nearly the old level, until within the past three months. The tendency is now downward, and we shall, hereafter, import stationery stock from the mother country more largely than before.

"The importations of books for the year amount to \$118,326, against \$155,842 last year."

Year.	Value of books entered at Ports in Lower Canada.	Value of books entered at Ports in Upper Canada.	Total value of books imported into the Province.	Proportion imported for the Educational Department of Upper Canada.
	\$	\$	\$	\$
1850.....	101880	141700	243580	84
1851.....	120700	171732	292432	3296
1852.....	141176	159268	300444	1288
1853.....	158700	254280	412980	22764
1854.....	171452	307808	479260	44060
1855.....	194356	338792	533148	25624
1856.....	208636	427992	636628	10208
1857.....	224400	309172	533572	16028
1858.....	171255	191942	363197	10692
1859.....	139057	184304	323361	5308
1860.....	155604	252504	408108	8846
1861.....	185612	344621	530233	7782
1862.....	183987	249234	433221	7800
1863.....	184652	276673	461325	4085
1864.....	93308	127233	220541	4668
1850—1864	\$2434775	\$3737255	\$6172030	\$172533

N.B.—Up to 1854, the "Trade and Navigation Returns" give the value on books entered at every port in Canada separately; after that year, the Report gives the names of the principal ports only, and the rest as "Other Ports." In 1854, the proportion entered in Lower Canada was within a fraction of the third part of the whole, and accordingly, in compiling this table for the years 1855—1864, the value entered in "Other Ports" is divided between Upper and Lower Canada, in the proportion of two-thirds to the former and one-third to the latter.

TABLE shewing the value of articles sent out from the Educational Depository during the years 1851 to 1864 inclusive:

YEAR.	Articles on which the 100 per cent. has been apportioned from the Legislative Grant.		Articles sold at Catalogue prices, without any apportionment from the Legislative Grant.	Total value of Library, Prize, and School Books, Maps, and Apparatus despatched.
	Public School Library Books.	Maps, Apparatus, and Prize Books.		
	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.	\$ cts.
1851.....	.....	.....	1,414 25	1,414 25
1852.....	.....	.....	2,981 13	2,981 13
1853.....	.....	.....	4,233 14	4,233 14
1854.....	51,376 23	.....	5,514 18	56,890 41
1855.....	9,947 15	4,655 53	4,389 40	18,992 08
1856.....	7,205 62	9,320 87	5,726 76	22,253 25
1857.....	16,200 92	18,118 28	6,451 20	40,770 40
1858.....	3,982 99	11,810 28	6,972 05	22,765 32
1859.....	5,805 64	11,905 02	6,679 30	24,389 96
1860.....	5,289 56	16,832 17	5,416 64	27,538 37
1861.....	4,084 22	16,251 14	4,894 52	25,229 88
1862.....	3,272 88	16,193 78	4,844 17	24,310 83
1863.....	4,022 46	15,886 88	3,461 48	23,370 82
1864.....	1,930 94	17,260 28	4,454 02	23,645 24
Total..	\$113,118 61	\$138,234 23	67,432 24	\$318,785 08

#### 4. LIBRARY OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

We yesterday had the pleasure of looking over the splendid Library of the Great Western Railway. The room devoted to the Library is in the building occupied by the Stores Department, and is plainly but substantially fitted up for the purpose. The manner of its organization is somewhat as follows: A sum of money had been accumulating in various ways, principally from fines received. This sum, which amounted to about \$1,500, the Directors granted for the purchase of a library. Nearly all the scientific works are English publications, many of them very expensive, though comparatively speaking few in number, they cost nearly as much as all the other works put together, most of them being richly illustrated. The works of reference are particularly complete, and are all the

newest publications. There are about 1,700 volumes in the library at present, and additions are to be made when practicable. The annual subscription is placed at the nominal sum of one dollar, in order that every employee of the Company may be enabled to become a member of the Association. — *Hamilton Spectator*.

#### 5. FREE LIBRARY OF REFERENCE OF THE BOARD OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES FOR U. C.

Owing to other demands on the funds of the Board, but comparatively few additions have been made to the Library during the year. The total number of volumes on the shelves at last report was 1,171; added during the year 102; total number now in Library 1,273; comprising British, American, and Canadian Specifications and Plates of Patents, 584 vols.; Statutes, Journals and other Parliamentary Publications, 167 vols.; Transactions of Societies, 33 vols.; and of the latest Cyclopedias and Standard Works on Architecture, Decoration, Designing, Engineering and Mechanics, Manufactures and Trades, and General Science, 489 vols. Of these your Committee acknowledge donations from the United States Patent Office of 6 vols. (in duplicate); from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 vol.; from the Smithsonian Institution, 1 vol.; from the Board of Agriculture for Upper Canada, 3 vols.; and from the heads of departments of the Government of this Province, the regular transmission to the Rooms of the Statutes, Journals, Sessional Papers, Blue Books, and other Parliamentary documents. The library has been regularly kept open to the public from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. each day; and on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7 till 10 o'clock, to afford to persons engaged in industrial pursuits the opportunity of consulting the works it contains. — *Report of Board*.

#### 6. DEAR BOOKS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Books will, perhaps, never again be as cheap in the United States as they were before the war, and never ought to be. The excessive cheapness of American books originated at the time when nearly all our publications were reprints of English works, which paid no copyright, and were, consequently, sold for little more than the cost of manufacturing them. When American writers began to offer works to publishers, they found the market glutted with reprints, and purchasers accustomed to the prices at which stolen goods are usually sold. No one was in the habit of considering the claims of an author. It seemed natural enough to pay the paper maker, the printer, and the binder. It was also supposed that the publisher should gain a little. But the author! Why should he expect any advantage? He was an unknown person in the trade. The author himself fell into this way of thinking, and almost felt that he was robbing an honest tradesman when he received his pittance.

The poor man, however, had one chance of getting a respectable compensation. Books being very cheap, and public libraries few, almost everyone that wanted a book bought it, and, hence, a new work occasionally met with a very large sale; so that a few cents upon each copy yielded a considerable return.

Luck of this kind was exceedingly rare, and the sale of even the most successful publications was not half as large as the public were given to understand. Advertisements told a story that differed immensely from the publisher's ledger. "Fifty thousand copies ordered previous to publication!" Beloved reader, we assert, without the slightest fear of contradiction, that such an event *never* occurred in the whole history of the book trade, from the days of King Solomon to the present hour. Fifty thousand copies! The works of the cost of one dollar which have been sold to the extent of fifty thousand copies in the first year, can be counted on the fingers of the hand. If a list could be here presented of the actual sale of the fifty best known and most successful publications of the last ten years, booksellers themselves would be astounded at the smallness of the figures. We are not now speaking of School books, nor of works forced upon a long-suffering people by an army of subscription agents, but of literary productions published legitimately, and placed fairly upon booksellers' counters for the public to buy or let alone as the public saw fit.

The business of publishing miscellaneous books had become the merest lottery. There were just enough prizes in the game to lure publishers to their ruin. When a duodecimo volume could be manufactured for thirty cents, and might attain a sale of fifteen thousand copies at eighty-five cents, and when the success of a book appeared to depend upon the chance humor of the public at the moment, every description of pen-and-scissors trash was rushed through the press. When the first cable was laid, for example, two enterprising gentlemen of the press made a book about it in ten days, and the publisher had it for sale in three weeks—just in time for the failure of the cable to kill the book. We have heard a publisher boast, as of a great and most creditable achievement, that he once had copies for sale, of a biographical work of 460 pages, in six weeks after he